

LORANNE AUSLEY
STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3

THE AUSLEY UPDATE



THE WEEKLY RECAP VIDEO

SENATOR AUSLEY



THE WEEKLY RECAP

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This week the Capitol halls were filled with multiple groups of citizen advocates, from firefighters, educators and architects to correctional officers and craft brewers – to name just a few. It was also Rural County Day, and it was great to

see the Capitol Courtyard filled with so many small, rural county representatives. I learn so much from these advocates and elected officials about what is important to them, their communities and their organizations. These visits are truly one of the things I love most about my job.

Rural County Day



No matter who I talk to, something I hear about almost every day is an immediate need to address workforce issues. Labor shortages are hurting industries that affect all Floridians, and SD 3 is no exception. This week I met with homebuilders who can't find skilled workers, and nursing homes that can't retain caregivers. This is not a new challenge, but like so many things it has been made worse by Covid. There are no quick fixes, but I will keep working in the legislature and as a member of the statewide Career Source Board to find real solutions.



Another issue that comes up often is the need to let local governments make their own decisions about what is best for their communities. Yet year after year, legislative leadership chips away at home rule, and this year is no exception. This week we voted on two bills that put unnecessary burdens on local communities. I voted no on both because of my concerns about the unknown impacts, particularly on small fiscally constrained counties and towns.

Child Care

With no session on Friday, I was able to get

out in the district! We started the day at the Altha Child Care Center talking to Director Melody about the rewards and challenges of operating a center through Hurricane Michael and Covid. Without child care, parents cannot go to work, but child care centers are struggling to find teachers and staff to keep their centers open. I'm working on a pilot project to address this through apprenticeship programs and increased training opportunities so that child care professionals have a clear career path that recognizes and acknowledges how

important these jobs are to a child's success in life. There is so much research about the importance of early learning and brain development – we have to do everything we can to stabilize the child care industry while making sure that every single child has the opportunity to learn and thrive.



Rish Park Grand Reopening

We finished off the week with a visit to Rish Park on Cape San Blas, a one-of-a-kind State Park that serves our disabled community. The park was severely damaged during Hurricane Michael and it is exciting to see so much work being done to make sure visitors can once again enjoy this jewel in our State Park System. I loved hearing from park officials about their vision of immersing people in the “real Florida.” With wheelchair-accessible ramps to the Gulf and the Bay, Rish visitors can enjoy the beautiful sandy beach, or fishing and birding in the marsh that meets the St. Joe Bay. An extra special treat for me was having Will along to celebrate his 19th birthday! I loved being able to share with him all that Rish has to offer those with disabilities.



Another cold weekend in store for North Florida, so stay warm, and please keep your calls and emails coming about the issues that are important to you!

Loranne Ausley

Loranne Ausley
Senator, District 3

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